

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1017
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
SPECIAL CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE EDUCATION TO HANDICAPPED
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether seventy percent of 12 lakh handicapped persons are living in rural areas of India are illiterate;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are considering/proposing to launch a special campaign to provide literacy to handicapped persons;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (d) As per the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be affected by some kind of disability. 78.32% of persons with disabilities live in rural areas. Literacy rate in rural areas is 20.30% upto primary school level and 8.8% upto middle school level and above. With a view to ensuring that all children including those with disabilities get access to education, the government has launched the Sarwa Shiksha Abhiyan. Through this, several options are available to children with disabilities for pursuing their education in inclusive schools, integrated schools, through non-formal system, National Open School and through institutions for special education run by government and voluntary organizations. The scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) provides for additional support by way of developing resource rooms in schools, teaching aids, assistive devices and transportation for the children.